

Grade 6. 4.2 Wilson Fluency

The Great Wall

mas ter em per or con struct tion
con nect ed sec tions tech nique ter
rain sim ple crafts men la bor ers

master emperor construction connected sections
technique terrain simple craftsmen laborers

There was no master plan or blueprint for a Great Wall.
Each emperor built when and where he thought the Mongol threat was the greatest.
Construction across northern China continued for the next two centuries.
The routes through mountain passes that the Mongols used most often to reach China
were blocked with walls. Those walls were then connected
with other sections of wall.

In the western part of the country, walls were built of pounded earth,
an ancient building technique. Peasants' homes, city walls,
even Qin Shi Huangdi's first long wall had been made of pounded earth.
In the dry, desert terrain of western China,
earth was the only building material available in great quantity.
It was simple to build with pounded earth. No skilled craftsmen were needed,
just many, many laborers.

There was no master plan or blueprint for a Great Wall. Each emperor built when and where he thought the Mongol threat was the greatest. Construction across northern China continued for the next two centuries. The routes through mountain passes that the Mongols used most often to reach China were blocked with walls. Those walls were then connected with other sections of wall.

In the western part of the country, walls were built of pounded earth, an ancient building technique. Peasants' homes, city walls, even Qin Shi Huangdi's first long wall had been made of pounded earth. In the dry, desert terrain of western China, earth was the only building material available in great quantity. It was simple to build with pounded earth. No skilled craftsmen were needed, just many, many laborers.